

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 04558 280631Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9279

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USIA WASHDC

13 AF/CC CLARK AB PHIL

DIRNSA

13 AF/CV UTAPAO

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK TH

UNCLAS BANGKOK 4558

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, MOPS, MILI, SOPN, TH

SUBJ: PRESS REPORT: U.S. REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND

USIA PASS IEA

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY NATION FRONTPAGED FOLLOWING
ARTICLE IN TODAY'S EDITION UNDER HEADLINE "U.S. WILL HAND
OVER 'SPY' STATIONS TO THAIS."

2. BEGIN TEXT. THAILAND WILL TAKE OVER THE AMERICAN
ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING STATIONS IN RAMASUN CAMP IN UDORN
THANI AND KO KHA CAMP IN LAMPANG AFTER THE MARCH 20 DEADLINE
FOR A TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN COMBAT FORCES FROM
THAILAND, SAID PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOJ. PARA
HE ADDED THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN THE SECRECY-SHROUDED
STATIONS WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY TRAINING TO THAI TECHNICIANS.
PARA THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN TRAINERS AS WELL AS OTHER
AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISERS WILL BE CUT GRADUALLY AND
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 04558 280631Z

AFTER COMPLETION OF THE TRAINING COURSE, ALL OF THEM MUST

LEAVE, THE CARETAKER PREMIER SAID. PARA HE
EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST HAND OVER ITS
MILITARY FACILITIES AT UTAPAO BASE TO THAILAND BEFORE THE
TOTAL WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE. PARA HE ALSO SAID CABINET WILL
SOON MEET TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IN
STRENGTHENING THE THAI ARMED FORCES FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL
OF THE AMERICAN COMBAT FORCES AND DRASTIC CUTS ON AMERICAN
MILITARY AID TO THAILAND. PARA "WHEN THEY (THE UNITED
STATES) DO NOT HELP US, WE MUST STRENGTHEN OURSELVES TO
MAKE UP THE LOSS," HE POINTED OUT. PARA A GENERAL IN THZ
SUPREME COMMAND, MEANWHILE, SAID THAT THE HIGHLY-SOPHISTICATED
AMERICAN RADAR STATION ON DOI INTHANON, CHIANG MAI, WILL
ALSO BE TAKEN OVER BY THAIS. PARA HE SAID THAILAND HAS
INSISTED THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST LZAVZ ALL EQUIPMENT
IN ITS INTERCEPTION STATIONS IN THAILAND INTACT AFTER
THE WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE. PARA HE SAID THESE INTERCEPTION
STATIONS WILL FORM A VERY USEFUL WARNING SYSTEM FOR THE
SELF-DEFENSE OF THAILAND. PARA ALL INFORMATION
CONSOLIDATED FROM THESE STATIONS, HE ADDED, WILL EXCLUSIVELY
REMAIN IN THAILAND AND THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO BIND
THAILAND TO SHARE THE INFORMATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.
PARA ASKED WHETHER POSSESSING THESE STATIONS WILL PROVOKE
THAILAND'S NEIGHBORS, THE GENERAL REPLIED THAT "THAILAND
HAS THE FIGHT TO MONITOR WHATEVER INTERESTS US. IF THEY
DON'T WANT TO BE MONITORED THEN MAKE NO MOVE AND KEEP
QUIET." END TEXT
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